

#### REMARKS

Entry of the present preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.


By means of the present preliminary amendment, the drawings and specification have been amended, to correct certain informalities and add reference numerals to the blocks in FIG 6. Further, claims 1-17 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 18-23 have been added that have patentable features similar to claim 15 of the parent application Serial No. 09/460,929, which has been allowed and is now pending.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments  
to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703  
Attorney  
(914) 333-9607  
February 10, 2004

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet with FIGs 4 and 6)  
Marked-up drawing sheet  
(1 sheet showing changes to FIGs 4 and 6)

Marked-up Drawings  
 1. Filed w/ Prelim. Am.

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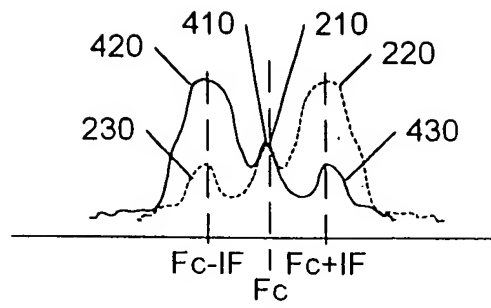


FIG. 4

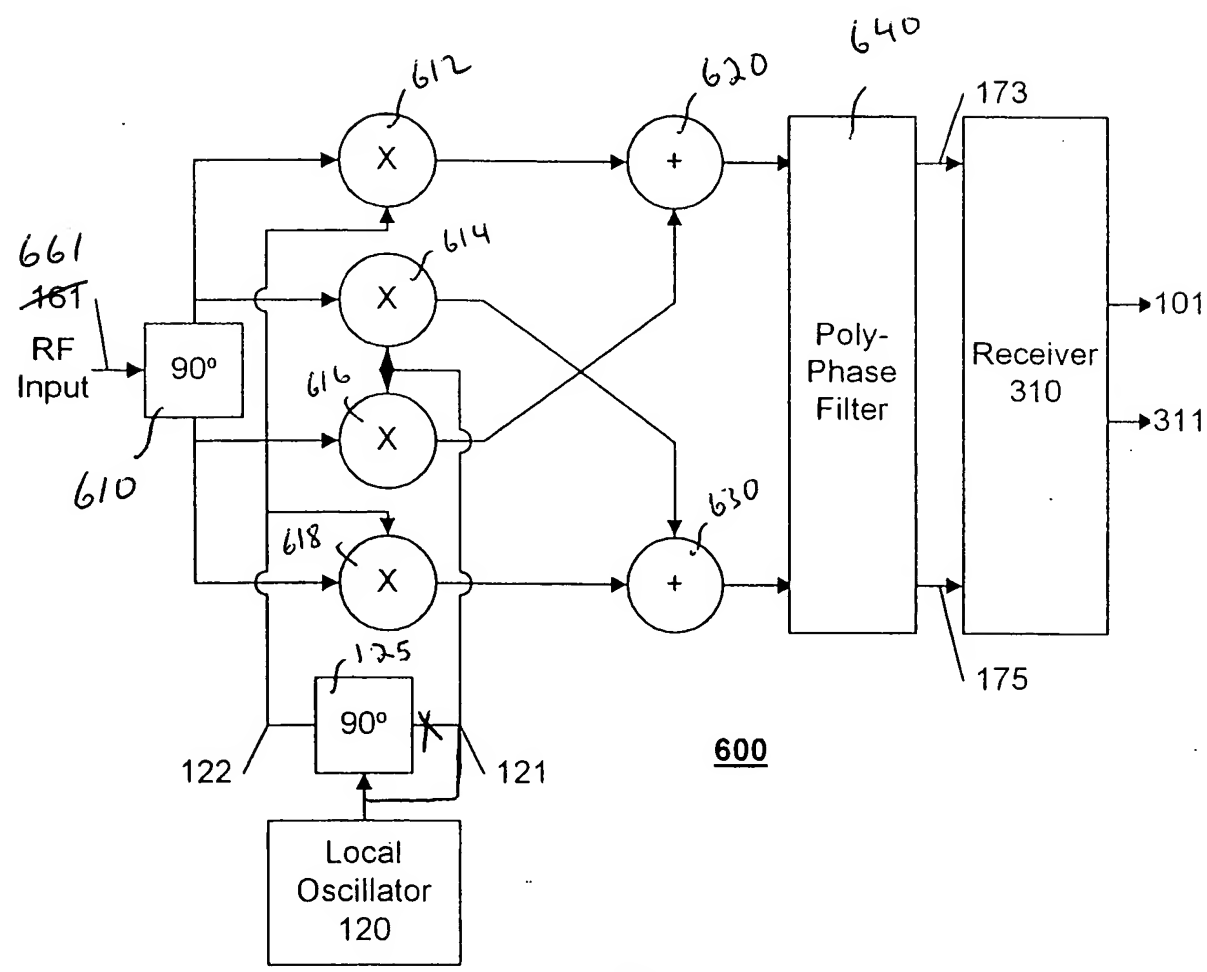


FIG. 6

(PROPOSED DRAWING CHANGES)

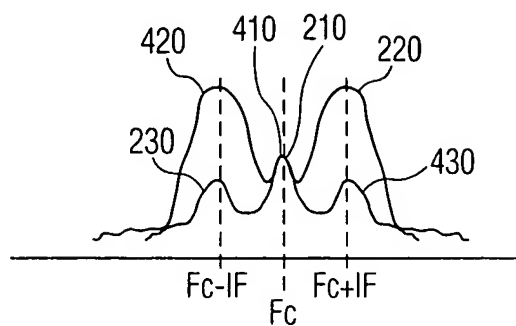


FIG. 4

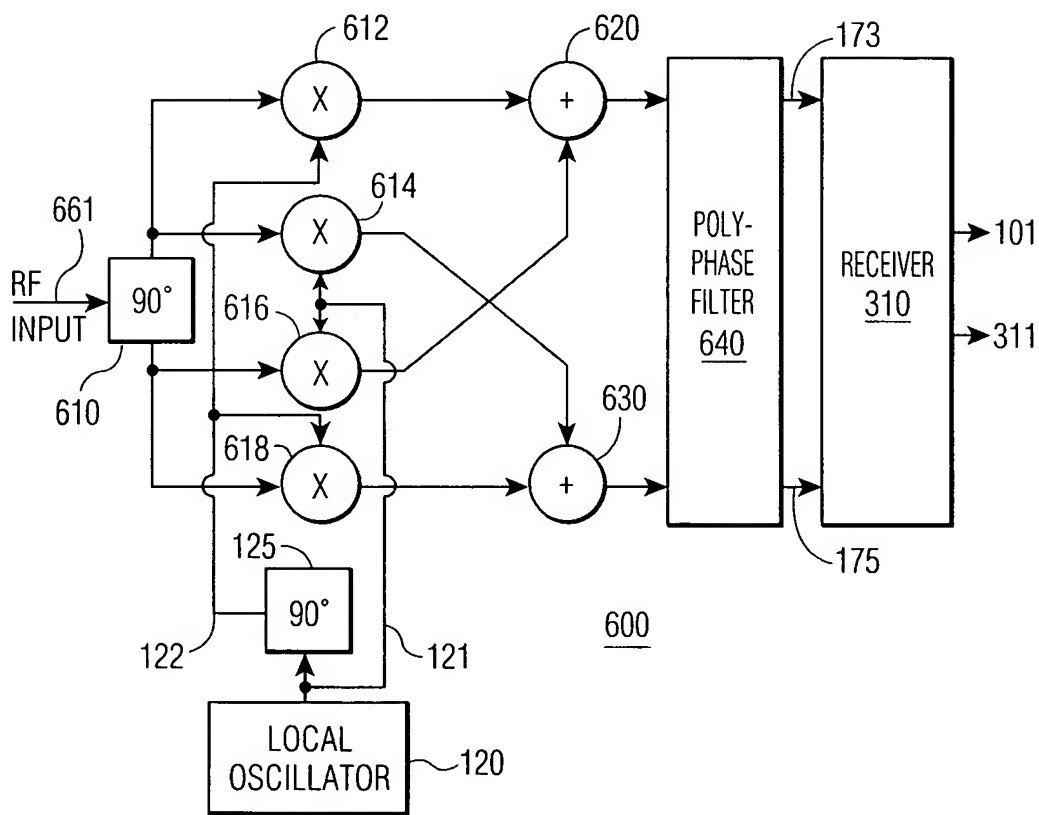


FIG. 6